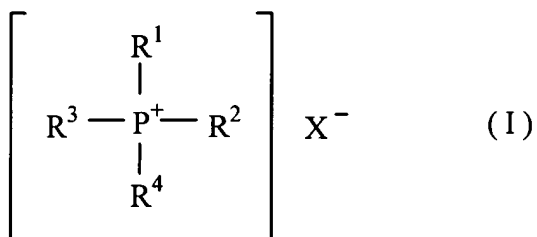
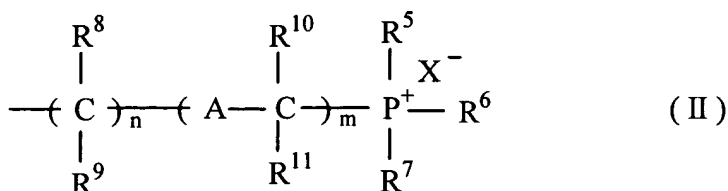


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An epoxy resin composition comprising an epoxy resin, ~~a~~an acid anhydride hardening agent and a hardening accelerator as indispensable ingredients, wherein said hardening accelerator is a phosphonium compound represented by the following formula (I):



wherein X represents a halogen atom, SbF<sub>6</sub>, AsF<sub>6</sub>, PF<sub>6</sub>, BF<sub>4</sub> or BPh<sub>4</sub>, and R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>4</sup> are the same or different, and are an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted aralkyl group, an optionally substituted diarylmethyl group or a group represented by the following formula (II):



wherein R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>7</sup> are the same or different, and are an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted aralkyl group or an optionally substituted diarylmethyl group,

R<sup>8</sup> to R<sup>11</sup> are the same or different, and are a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group or an optionally substituted aryl group,

A is an optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon ring,

n is an integer of 1 to 5, m is 0 or 1, and

~~X represents a halogen atom, and SbF<sub>6</sub>, AsF<sub>6</sub>, PF<sub>6</sub>, BF<sub>4</sub> or BPh<sub>4</sub>~~

X is as defined in the formula (I);

provided that at least one of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>4</sup> is a group represented by the formula (II),  
~~and when m is 1, or any one of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>4</sup> and any one of R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>7</sup> R<sup>5</sup>-R<sup>7</sup> may be~~  
 combined together to form a lower alkylene group which forms a heterocyclic ring  
 containing two phosphorus atoms, ~~and X is as defined in the formula (II).~~

2. (Currently amended) The epoxy resin composition according to claim 1 wherein the phosphonium compound is one or more ~~kinds of~~ phosphonium compound selected from the group consisting of

(a) a phosphonium compound wherein, in the above formula (I), at least one of  $R^1$  to  $R^4$  is a group represented by the formula (II),  $R^5$  to  $R^7$  are the same or different, and are a phenyl group, an optionally substituted benzyl group, a naphthylmethyl group, an optionally substituted diphenylmethyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $R^8$  is a hydrogen atom,  $R^9$  is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group,  $n$  is an integer of 1 to 4,  $m$  is 0, and the rest of  $R^1$  to  $R^4$  is a phenyl group, an optionally substituted benzyl group, a naphthylmethyl group, an optionally substituted diphenylmethyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl group,

(b) a phosphonium compound wherein, in the above formula (I),  $R^2$  is a group represented by the formula (II),  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^9$  are a phenyl group,  $R^8$  is a hydrogen atom,  $m$  is 0,  $n$  is 2,  $R^1$  and  $R^5$  are combined together to form a  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene group, and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are a phenyl group, and

~~(c) a phosphonium compound wherein, in the above formula (I),  $R^1$  is a group represented by the formula (II),  $R^5$  to  $R^7$  are a phenyl group or a group represented by the formula:  $-(CH_2)_p-PPh_2$  (wherein,  $p$  is an integer of 1 to 4),  $R^8$  to  $R^{11}$  are a hydrogen atom,  $A$  is an optionally substituted benzene ring,  $m$  and  $n$  are 1, and  $R^2$  to  $R^4$  are a phenyl group or a group represented by the formula:  $-(CH_2)_p-PPh_2$  (wherein,  $p$  is an integer of 1 to 4),~~

~~(d)~~(c) a phosphonium compound wherein, in the above formula (I),  $R^2$  is a group represented by the formula (II),  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are a phenyl group,  $R^8$  to  $R^{11}$  are a hydrogen atom,  $A$  is an optionally substituted benzene ring,  $m$  and  $n$  are 1,  $R^1$  and  $R^5$  are combined together to form a  $C_{1-8}$  alkylene group, and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are a phenyl group.

3. (Currently amended) The epoxy resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of a ~~the~~ phosphonium compound ~~to be added~~ is 0.05 to 5 parts by weight (phr) relative to 100 parts by weight (phr) of epoxy resin.

4. (Original) The epoxy resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the epoxy resin comprises a triazine derivative epoxy resin.

5. (Original) A hardened resin which is obtained by heating and curing the epoxy resin composition according to claim 1.